federal register

Wednesday
September 17, 1980

Part VII

Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Human Development Services

Child Welfare Research and Demonstration Grants Program; Program Announcement No. 13608-811

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Office of Human Development Services

Child Welfare Research and Demonstration Grants Program; Program Announcement Number 13608-811

SUBJECT: Announcement of Availability of Grant Funds for the Child Welfare Research and Demonstration Grants Program under Section 426 of the Social Security Act as Amended.

DATE: Closing date for receipt of all applications under this program announcement is December 1, 1980.

Definitions of Research and Demonstration

Research refers to a project to develop new knowledge or to evaluate existing knowledge in new settings.

Demonstration refers to activities designed specifically to show the method of operation or applicability of a research or program model.

Scope of This Program Announcement

This Program Announcement covers the first quarter of Fiscal Year 1981. This is one of a series of Program Announcements relating to the purpose and objectives of the Child Welfare Research and Demonstration Grants Program. Competition for grant awards in other ACYF special emphasis areas within the program will be announed separately in the **Federal Register.**

Grant support is not available for ongoing programs or services (such as the provision of day care services), for projects that demonstrate a service that has already been established in other communities and is generally accepted as part of a comprehensive child welfare or child development program, or for staff training projects.

Since ACYF funds research and demonstration grants under its National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect, it will not consider or fund child abuse and neglect projects under the authority of the Child Welfare Research and Demonstration Grants Program.

Program Purpose

The purpose of the Child Welfare Research and Demonstration Grants Program is to support (1) special research or demonstration projects in the field of child welfare which are of regional or national significance; (2) special projects for the demonstration of new methods or facilities which show promise of substantial contribution to the advance of child welfare; (3) projects for the demonstration of the utilization of research (including findings resulting therefrom) in the field of child welfare in order to encourage experimental and special types of welfare services, and (4) special projects for the demonstration of innovative methods or facilities which show promise of substantial contribution to meeting a variety of family needs.

Program Goal and Objectives

The overall goal of the program is to support projects where the utilization of findings is expected to make a substantial contribution to the enhancement of the development and welfare of children and families.

To accomplish this goal, grants will be awarded for projects which reflect the following three program objectives.

1. *To conduct child and family research or demonstration projects which address the Information Needs of Parents of Children ages 4–8 and 9–13.*—The purpose of this objective is to generate scientific knowledge about the provisions and use of child development information by different types of families with children ages four to eight and nine to thirteen years. This project is a logical extension of the 1977 priority which generated information for parents of very young children (0–3 years of age). ACYF will support scientifically sound proposals which respond to the above stated objective and which are guided by one or more of the questions listed below:

a. What types of information do parents have about child development for the age groups 4–8 years and 9–13 years? How do parents seek, acquire and use such information? What effect does the use or failure to use appropriate child development information have on child outcomes, parent-child interaction and sibling interaction?

b. What do parents perceive as their child development information needs? How do parents' perceived child development information needs vary as a function of family structure, family developmental stage, economic, social and cultural circumstances? What kinds of child development information do parents of the identified age groups find most useful for child development?

c. How can scientific knowledge about child development be communicated in culturally sensitive ways to different types of families? What information and dissemination strategies are most effective in increasing parents' awareness of child development processes and in expanding parents' knowledge bases without preempting their role as primary decision makers in the rearing of their children? Does the type of child development information disseminated to parents affect their pattern of utilization of family support services?

2. *To conduct projects which develop and demonstrate innovative family support systems.*—ACYF has pursued a consistent strategy in its research and demonstration activities in the area of child and family development. The major theme has been that the family is a viable unit providing unique services to its members, although the strategies for carrying out its primary tasks may change over time. Strategies also change in response to the stage of the family development cycle. This is because the family exists within an ecological setting composed of informal systems of support networks which mediate its interactions with the formal institutions of society. While these formal and informal systems play a significant role in normally occurring stress periods as when a child is born, a parent dies, parents separate or divorce, unemployment occurs, ACYF is particularly interested in the less common but more difficult stresses. Examples of these more difficult stresses encountered by families are (a) when family stress reaches the point of domestic violence, (b) when the parenting role is resumed after a parent or child has been institutionalized, e.g., prison, extended hospitalization, foster care, (c) when the role and responsibilities of being a father or stepfather are assumed, particularly for very young men and/or for other groups where there are indications of special difficulty, (d) when an urban United States living pattern is assumed as by rural and American Indian families or by refugees or immigrants whether legal or undocumented, (e) when a work role is assumed after a parent has been dependent on AFDC, or (f) other similar family stress situations. ACYF will support projects proposing to demonstrate methods for addressing these stresses. Projects proposing to demonstrate an appropriate support service/network must be accompanied by an evaluation.

3. *To develop replicable community models of projects which have developed unique and innovative approaches to meeting a variety of family needs and correcting service deficiencies.*—This third program objective addresses the immediate concern of the Office for Families. This office, established within ACYF in November 1979, is concerned about the fragmentation of services delivered to families. Reasons for fragmentation include: (1) the absence of financial

incentives to encourage the development of comprehensive services; and (2) the tendency to address problems in a categorical, narrow and prescriptive fashion. ACYF will support community based projects that have developed unique and innovative approaches to meeting a variety of family needs and correcting service deficiencies. The focus of these demonstration projects should be on linkages among community services that overcome fragmentation in these service delivery systems and that offer a family perspective. In addition, these demonstration projects shall serve as community models that are replicable in other parts of the country.

Demonstration projects which cover a variety of family support services such as income supports, cooperative neighborhood centers, transportation and energy-related services; legal/correctional services such as court custody determinations and mediation, domestic violence prevention, prison reform, child abuse and neglect prevention; educational services such as parenting education, alternate schools, job skills, family life education; health services such as handicapped, mental health, medical/dental, and family planning; day care services such as child day care, elderly day care, respite care; residential care such as nursery homes, treatment programs for delinquents, mentally disabled, chronically ill; and foster care and adoption.

Program strategies may include the following: advocacy, voluntary services, information dissemination, crisis intervention, counseling, networking, public policy/family impact analysis, medical/psycholotherapeutic intervention, training/technical assistance, and resource development.

Grants may be used to match and/or supplement private, community, or foundation sources of capital. First priority for funding will be projects with a demonstrated community commitment of resources. Applications are encouraged from nonprofit organizations, including voluntary groups.

Grants are intended to support demonstration projects which will improve quality, expand service capacity, increase the population served and/or disseminate information about family-related projects. Special consideration will be given to geographic distribution of grants and services to low-income and minority families. Projects funded must ensure development of an instrument for dissemination to and/or replication by other community organizations nationwide.

Eligible Applicants

Public or other nonprofit institutions of higher learing, public or other nonprofit agencies and organizations engaged in child and family welfare activities including research may apply.

Available Funds

The Administration for Children, Youth and Families expects to award approximately $1.1 million (of the $12.0 million expected to be appropriated by Congress for Fiscal Year 1981) for new grants responding to the child and family objectives listed above. Approximately $525,000 will be awarded for objective 1; $500,000 for objective 2 and $75,000 for objective 3.

It is expected that approximately sixteen grants will be awarded pursuant to this announcement. The range of grant awards is expected to be between $80,000 and $120,000 for objectives 1 and 2. For objective 3, the grants will range between $10,000 and $20,000. Projects will be supported for periods of one to three years for objectives 1 and 2. For objective 3 the grants will be for one year.

A new grant is the initial grant made in support of a project. The initial grant sustains the Federal share of the budget for the first year of the project. Continued support for additional time remaining in the project period is dependent on the availability of funds and the grantee's satisfactory progress.

Grants awarded pursuant to this announcement will be funded by December 31, 1980.

Grantee Share of the Project

Grantees may share in the costs of *research* projects only. It is generally expected that grantees will provide at least five percent of total project costs. The grantee share may be in cash or in kind but must be project-related and allowable under the Department's applicable cost principles and Subpart G published in 45 CFR Part 74 (see 43 FR 34076, August 2, 1978).

The Application Process

Availability of Forms

In order to be considered for a grant under the Child Welfare Research and Demonstration Grants Program, an application must be submitted on the standard forms supplied and in the manner prescribed by the Administration for Children, Youth and Families. Application kits which contain the prescribed application forms and information for the applicant may be obtained from:

Administration for Children, Youth and Families Research, Demonstration and Evaluation Division, P.O. Box 1182, Washington, D.C. 20013.
Attention: 13608–811
Telephone: (202) 755–7755; 755–7758; 755–7740

Application Submission

The prescribed application form must be signed by an individual authorized to act for the applicant agency and to assume for the agency the obligations imposed by the terms and conditions of the grant award.

One signed original and two copies of the grant application, including all attachments, must be submitted to the address indicated in the application instructions. The application must clearly identify the program announcement number and the program objective for which the application is to compete.

A–95 Notification Process

This program does not require the A–95 notification process.

Application Consideration

The Commissioner for Children, Youth and Families will make the final decision on each grant application for this program. Applications which are complete and conform to the requirements of this program announcement will be competitively reviewed and evaluated by qualified persons independent of the Administration for Children, Youth and Families. An application will compete only with other applications addressing that same objective.

The results of the review will assist the Commissioner in considering competing applications. The Commissioner's consideration will also take into account the comments of the HHS Regional Offices and the Headquarters ACYF staff.

If the Commissioner decides to disapprove or not to fund a competing grant application, the unsuccessful applicant will be notified in writing. The letter will include an explanation of the reasons for disapproval or non-funding or will indicate that an explanation may be obtained upon request.

Successful applicants will be notified through the issuance of a Notice of Financial Assistance Awarded (NFAA), which sets forth the amount of funds granted, the terms and conditions of the grant, the budget period for which support is given, the total grantee share expected, and the total period for which project support is contemplated.

Criteria for Review and Evaluation of Grant Applications

Competing grant applications for objectives 1 and 2 will be reviewed and evaluated against the following criteria:

1. Estimated cost to the government is reasonable considering anticipated results; (10 points)

2. Project objectives are identical with or capable of achieving the specific program purpose and objectives defined in the program announcement and program guidance; (20 points)

3. Proposed methodology or procedures, if well executed, are capable of attaining project objectives:

a. Review of literature

b. Innovativeness of approach/design

c. Objectives/hypotheses clearly stated

d. Procedures (sample size; comparison/control groups; treatment(s); design, measures/instruments; data analysis plan; time schedule; reports) (30 points)

4. Comparability of proposed study to other completed and/or ongoing studies:

a. Applicant indicates awareness of related projects

b. Applicant uses marker measure and marker variables for research comparability as appropriate (10 points)

5. Project personnel are or will be well qualified, and applicant organization has or will have adequate facilities; (20 points)

6. Dissemination/Utilization Plan

a. Applicant indicates knowledge of appropriate users

b. Applicant presents an appropriate utilization plan (10 points)

Competing grant applications for objective 3 will be reviewed and evalutated against the following criteria

1. Estimated cost to the government is reasonable considering anticipated results; (10 points)

2. The proposed project provides a family perspective to at least one of the identified service areas; (10 points)

3. The proposed project is innovative, non-duplicative of other funded projects, and worth replicating in other parts of the country; (25 points)

4. Program objectives are reflected in efforts to correct service deficiencies by improving quality, expanding service capacity, increasing the population served, and/or disseminating information about family-related projects; (20 points)

5. Federal funding supplements private, community of foundation sources of capital; (10 points)

6. Applicant can show organizational experience, staffing and structure, and sufficient capability for implementation of project objectives; (15 points)

7. Applicant plans to submit a replication model to be used for developing similar projects elsewhere and an appropriate utilization plan. (10 points)

In addition to the above criteria, applications will be reviewed to assure:

1. that if subjects are at risk, appropriate safeguards have been taken, and

2. that if formal agreements with cooperating agencies are necessary for the implementation of a demonstration project, they are documented and included with the application.

Closing Date for Receipt of Applications

The closing date for receipt of all applications under this Program Announcement is December 1, 1980. Applications may be mailed or hand-delivered. An application will be considered received on time if:

- The application was sent by registered or certified mail not later than December 1, 1980 as evidenced by the U.S. Postal Service postmark or the original receipt from the U.S. Postal Service;
- The application is received on or before close of business, December 1, 1980 in the DHHS mailroom in Washington, D.C.; or
- The application is hand-delivered to the address on the application kit by close of business December 1, 1980.

Hand-delivered applications will be accepted daily from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. except Saturdays, Sundays, and Federal holidays. In establishing the date of receipt, consideration will be given to the time date stamps of the mailroom or other documentary evidence of receipt maintained by the Department of Health and Human Services.

Applications received after the deadline because they were postmarked or hand-delivered too late or addressed incorrectly will not be accepted and will be returned to the applicant without consideration.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Number 13608 Child Welfare Research and Demonstration Grants Program)

Dated: August 5, 1980.

John A. Calhoun,

Commissioner for Children, Youth and Families.

Approved: September 10, 1980.

Kathryn Morrison,

Acting Assistant Secretary for Human Development Service.

[FR Doc. 80-28678 Filed 9-16-80; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4110-92-M